



Overview of EDA Programs and Resources available to Support Communities

Grant Workshop March 10, 2016

EDA's mission is to lead the Federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy.

As the only Federal agency with economic development as its exclusive mission, EDA provides strategic investments to help communities design and implement critical public projects that will **promote job creation** and retention, **attract private investment**, and support the *long-term* economic development goals of the region.

To be competitive for EDA assistance, six key requirements should be met:

- The application must be submitted by an **eligible applicant**;
- The project must be in a distressed region (**eligible region**);
- The project must meet required **matching share** thresholds;
- The project must be for **eligible activities** under each program type and applicable FFO;
- The applicant and project must **follow EDA's regulations**; *and*
- The project should **align with key departmental and agency priorities**.



- State governments;
- City, Counties or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities;
- Institutions of high education;
- District organization or COG;
- Native American tribal governments; *and*
- Non-profit organizations acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State.



Regions that meet one or more of the following criteria may be eligible for EDA grants:

- **Unemployment rate** for the most recent 24-month period that is at least 1% point higher than the national average;
- **Per capita income** that is 80% or less than the national average; *or*
- **A Special Need**, such as (but not limited to) underemployment, recent or pending plant closings, natural disasters, or military base closures.



Applications for EDA assistance generally require a 50 percent Matching Share. Matching Share funds must:

- ***Be available and committed** to use for the specific EDA project outlined in the application as of the date that the application is submitted;*
- ***Be unencumbered**, or not otherwise limited or directed to specific tasks (Matching Share funds need to be available for the entire EDA Scope of Work requested); and*
- ***Be from eligible sources** (generally other Federal funds may not be used as Matching Share for an EDA award).*

What is the objective of the Public Works & Economic Adjustment Assistance



- Through the Public Works (PW) and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs, EDA makes strategic investments to help communities **build or expand access to key public infrastructure assets which will support job creation and leverage private investment**
- Focus is on **long-term job creation**
- Economic Adjustment Assistance Program provides resources for **regions experiencing severe economic dislocations**



- 2 step process
 - Proposal
 - Application
- Designed to provide applicants an easier way to engage with EDA and receive feedback on project concepts
- Proposals can be submitted anytime during year to receive Phase I determination
- Proposals that pass Phase I determination will be able to submit a full Application



Through the Short-Term Planning & Technical Assistance Programs, EDA provides resources to help communities obtain, analyze, disseminate, and coordinate efforts that will lead to more informed economic development decision-making.

- *Applications for this program can take many forms, including feasibility studies, economic impact assessments, regional best practice and dissemination efforts, and collaborative regional projects.*
- *Applications are accepted throughout the year.*



- **EDA grant investments are made on a COMPETITIVE basis.** While all investments are reviewed based on the criteria in the applicable funding notice, generally EDA prioritizes projects that:
 - Clearly advance regional goals articulated in the region's CEDS;
 - Create or retain jobs, leverage private investment, and increase community capacity to promote long-term prosperity;
 - Are clear economic development projects that would not duplicate projects which could be funded from other Federal agencies;
 - Contain clear and feasible scope-of-work;
 - Engage broad public-private support across the region;
 - Will be able to start expeditiously, managed effectively, and completed on-time; *and*
 - Advance at least one of EDA's or DOC's Investment Priorities and align with the specific goals of the applicable program to which application is submitted.

- EDA's investment criteria encourages projects that align with at least one of the following Investment Priorities:
 - Collaborative Regional Innovation
 - Public/Private Partnerships
 - National Strategic Priorities
 - Global Competitiveness
 - Environmentally-Sustainable Development
 - Economically Distressed and Underserved Communities
- DOC Strategic Investment Plan prioritizes EDA investments that foster:
 - Trade and Investment Strategic Objectives (Exports/foreign direct exports)
 - Innovation Strategic Objectives (Accelerate advanced manufacturing and catalyze innovation ecosystems)
 - DOC Environmental Strategic Objectives (Strengthen the resiliency of communities and regions)

What are factors I should keep in mind if I am interested in applying?



- **It is a competition.** Submission of a Proposal or Application does not guarantee funding. EDA receives far more competitive applications than it can fund.
- **Regionalism and partnerships are important.** EDA aims to have the greatest impact with its investments; regional projects that have impact across multiple jurisdictions and broad support and engagement from regional partners are preferred. Partnerships with EDDs are critical.
- **Due diligence is critical.** The use of Federal funds requires compliance with numerous factors. Certain factors can make otherwise meritorious projects difficult to fund, including: relocation of jobs, environmental challenges on a project, ownership/title issues, etc. When in doubt, please contact me to discuss.
- **Not all projects may be EDA projects.** While EDA invites all interested applicants to submit Proposals and Applications, it can be most effective to focus time and resources toward projects where there is clear alignment with EDA funding priorities and requirements.



Feel free to reach out to me to discuss potential projects, ask questions on the application process, or solicit feedback on any query you may have ---- I am here to serve the communities of NC and it would be my pleasure to work with you!

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Thank you.